

TOWN OF LEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

7 Mast Road
Lee, New Hampshire 03861
(603) 659-5414

June 12, 2020

Lee News & Upcoming Events



LEE FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION



LAWN SIGN FUNDRAISER

Only a \$15
donation!



LIMITED
SUPPLY!

The Lee Fireman's Association of Lee, New Hampshire is conducting a fundraiser to help support local first responders and healthcare workers! We understand this has been an extremely difficult time for everyone and unfortunately first responders and healthcare workers are still dealing with COVID-19 on a daily basis. The Lee Fireman's Association has purchased a limited supply of lawn signs for the residents of Lee to help show their continued appreciation and support of these workers. 100% of your minimum donation of \$15.00 or more will be used to purchase "snack baskets" as a thank you to the Lee Fire & Rescue, Lee Police Department, McGregor Ambulance and Wentworth Douglass Hospital. To have a sign delivered to your house in Lee please follow the information below.

To show your support and have a sign delivered please

Mail all checks to

Lee Fireman's Association
20 George Bennett Road
Lee, NH 03861

Please make sure to include your NAME,
ADDRESS AND A PHONE NUMBER

All checks made out to "LEE FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION"

If you have any questions please email us at
leefireassociation@gmail.com

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE NOTICE

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office is currently experiencing a higher volume of calls than usual, so if your call is not immediately answered, please leave a message or email estone@leenh.org. The office will try to respond to all messages on the same business day if left no later than 3 pm; any messages left after 3 pm will be answered on our next business day. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these challenging times.

Stay at Home Order Expires June 15, 2020

Governor Sununu announced yesterday that the Stay at Home Order will expire and be replaced by a Safer at Home program. The cap on gatherings of 10 or less will be removed, as well. All businesses will be open by June 29th but will still have guidance requirements in place.

Town Offices remain closed to the public at this time but we are working on a plan to be able to reopen to the public. Town employees continue to work both remotely and on site and remain committed to ensuring the safety of both employees and the public.

Please stay safe and keep everyone else safe by continuing to follow the CDC's guidelines – limit social contact – wash your hands – stay in if you are sick – clean and sanitize surfaces.

YARD SALES AND TREE CUTTING NOTICE

Yard Sales are now allowed, but you may only place a sign on your own property or at a friend's house (be sure to get permission first) and remove the signs promptly after the yard sale is over. Signs are not allowed in the Lee triangle (where George Bennett, Mast and Lee Hill Roads meet) or on any other town-owned property, including on the side of both state and town roads. You must follow the guidance for retail establishments as well as the universal guidelines established by the Governor's office found here <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov>

Although it is great to have your trees "removed for free" be sure that the logger follows all of the laws pertaining to tree cutting. As the homeowner, please reach out to Caren Rossi to see what is required, i.e. no-cut buffers, Intent to Cut form, etc. Unfortunately, I have seen many homeowners become a victim of this "offer" and it ends up costing the homeowner more money to fix the problems created by the "free" removal than hiring a company to remove them correctly. Unfortunately, the fault lies with the homeowner and you may have more than just brush to clean up.

VOTING INFORMATION

On April 10, 2020, a memorandum was issued concluding that "in light of the current public health state of emergency, Emergency Orders #16 and #26, and current public health guidance on social distancing and avoiding being in public in groups of 10 or more, all voters have a reasonable ground to conclude that a 'physical disability' exists within the meaning of RSA 657:1." Even if a person does not consider them self a person with disability in other circumstances, the term applies for registering and voting in 2020. RSA 654:16. Therefore, all New Hampshire citizens may apply for voter registration by mail. Obtain an Absentee Voter Registration Form, affidavit, and instruction package by e-mailing (lreinhold@leenh.org or estone@leenh.org) or mailing (7 Mast Road, Lee, NH 03861). If unable to request by email/mail, please call 603-659-2964.



Unfortunately the warning to pick up after your dogs was not taken seriously. A new Ordinance banning dogs from Lee playing fields is forthcoming. Please return here for more information in the coming weeks.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR NOTICE

COVID-19 INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYING TAX BILLS

Your Lee property tax bill may be paid in 1 of the following 3 ways:

1. **TC/TC Lock Box** – This is labeled and located to the left of the entrance to the Town Hall building. Please leave payment in an envelope with the payment stub. If you want a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or include your email address.
2. **Mail** - Mail it to our office at 7 Mast Road, Lee, NH 03861. Again, please include the payment stub with your check. If you would like a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or include your email address.
3. **Online** – Go to www.leenh.org. Click on the property taxes button under Town Resource Center. There you may pay via ACH or credit card. There are additional fees associated with this method.

If you need to meet with us, please call the office 659-2864 to schedule an appointment. Thanks for understanding and stay safe!

NH Department of Revenue Launches Annual Property Tax Relief Program

Applications for the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program due June 30; provision allows for additional time to provide federal tax return

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (NHDRA) is accepting applications for its [Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief](#) program through June 30, 2020. NHDRA distributed more than \$1.1 million through this tax relief program last year, and more than \$44 million in total since the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program launched in 2002.

An eligible applicant for Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief is a person who is:

- * Single with adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$20,000; or
- * Married or head of New Hampshire household with adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$40,000; and
- * Owns a homestead subject to the State Education Property Tax; and
- * Has resided in that homestead as of April 1, 2019.

Applicants are required to submit their individual income tax returns with the application. However, given the federal July 15 extension, some may not have filed their federal return by the June 30 Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program deadline. An existing provision allows NHDRA to accept late applications, if complete, until November 1 if the Commissioner believes the individual was prevented from completing his or her application in certain circumstances.

Additional information is available in this [press release](#) or on the [NHDRA website](#).

Taxpayers with questions should call Taxpayer Services at (603) 230-5920, press prompt 2, then prompt 2 again.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

The SBA and Treasury Department have released the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness Application and detailed instructions for the application. [Click here](#) to view the application and instructions. The SBA will be helping businesses with the process along with their partners at SCORE, NH-SBDC, and the CWE. In addition to continued funding available for PPP for anyone that has not applied, they continue to offer forgiveness of 6 months of payments on ALL SBA loans through September 27, 2020.

A few workshops that businesses may be interested in are listed on their web page at www.sba.gov/nh.

Based on the request of Governor Sununu, the SBA has declared a disaster declaration for the entire State of New Hampshire based on economic injury due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

All the details including the joint press release, the loan application process, assistance for government contractors, and other resources can be found [here](#).

Small businesses looking for assistance should reach out to one of the following partners for help with things such as filling out paperwork, questions or even advice. These partners include SCORE, NH Small Business Development Center, and the Center for Women & Enterprise (NH's Women Business Center and Veterans Business Outreach Center). You will find links to these partners at www.sba.gov/nh.

Since this is still a developing situation, to keep up to date on all activities effecting NH small businesses, please join our mailing list [click here](#).



**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT WE ARE NOT WIPING DOWN PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT,
PICNIC BENCHES OR ANY OTHER SURFACES**

Be smart. Do your part.

The Town of Lee urges our residents and visitors to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. If you go to a park or trail to exercise, use extreme caution. Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others when outside and wear a mask if you cannot maintain this distance. Cookouts are also not permitted in Little River Park, until further notice. Avoid touching surfaces including playground equipment, benches, and other sports equipment that are handled by others.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

NH Department of Health and Human Services Resource Guide and Warm Line to Support Families During COVID-19

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has developed two new resources to help children, youth, families and caregivers during the COVID-19 emergency.

The first is “[Supporting Child and Family Wellbeing During the COVID-19 Emergency](#),” a new resource guide with practical tips on how we can all support children and families during COVID-19. The guide also provides a list of resources available to families statewide. The second resource is the [Family Support Warm Line](#), a partnership between DHHS and Waypoint. The Family Support Warm Line is a no-cost, confidential phone support line focused on promoting family resiliency. Residents can call 800-640-6486 and speak with family support professionals and parent partners for help with managing family challenges, coping strategies, or emotional support during COVID-19.

“Our data has shown a decline in the number of calls made to DCYF from those community helpers who regularly see kids face to face, but this is continues to be a stressful time for families and our focus has to remain on prevention,” said DCYF Director Joseph Ribsam. “Having resources readily available and a place where parents and caregivers can turn if they need to talk to someone can make a difference for our families and guide them to the services they need to stay strong and healthy, before they reach a tipping point that leads to abuse or neglect.”

The efforts stem from [Emergency Order #22](#), issued by Governor Chris Sununu on April 1, which authorizes emergency funding for critical child protection services to ensure that New Hampshire families continue to receive the right services at the right time during the COVID-19 emergency. In addition to the Family Support Warm Line, the funding will support domestic violence and substance use supports, expansion of the DCYF Strength to Succeed Program, and additional technology support for DCYF-involved families.

March data from the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) shows a [decrease in referrals](#) to DCYF’s Central Intake, compared to the same time period over the past two years. New child abuse and neglect referrals are down nearly 50% each week overall.

To learn more about recognizing the signs of child abuse and neglect, visit [Know and Tell](#), an education program offered through the Granite State Children’s Alliance, the Chapter Organization for the network of New Hampshire’s Child Advocacy Centers.

The Family Support Warm Line can be reached toll-free at 1-800-640-6486, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, call the DCYF Central Intake line at (603) 271-6562 or toll-free (in state) at (800) 894-5533.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, STATE JOINT INFORMATON CENTER, 603-223-6169 or jic@dos.nh.gov

TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR OFFICE COVID-19 PROCEDURES

COVID-19 HOURS: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY 8-4

Please know that while the building is closed to the public, we are still doing everything we normally do here but in a different way.

RENEWING VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS:

- If you have a vehicle currently registered in Lee and it is not more than 6 months late, you can register online at www.leenh.org. The registrations and decals are then mailed to you;
OR
- If you have your Lee renewal notice, you can renew by mail or drop it off at the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lock Box along with a check made out in the correct amount to the Town of Lee. We will then mail you the registrations and decals.

Please note - We ALWAYS send renewal notices. If you moved recently you may not have received it.

If you are unable to do one of the above options for any reason, you can call our office at 659-2964 and we will tell you what you need to do to complete the transaction.

NEW VEHICLE OR NEW TO LEE:

If you are new to Lee, or if you have a new vehicle to register, please call our office at 659-2964 and we will tell you what you need to do to complete the transaction.

We are processing NEW REGISTRATIONS while you wait in the Town Hall parking lot but you must call first to make an appointment.

Temporary plates issued on or after February 26, 2020 expired on May 31, 2020.

VITAL RECORDS REQUESTS:

These can be done online at www.leenh.org. The directions will indicate that it is required to email your ID in order to complete this request. Please email your ID to estone@leenh.org.

DOG LICENSES:

- If your dog was registered for 2019-2020 and the rabies is still up-to-date, you can renew the registration online.
- If the rabies is not up-to-date, then we need proof from the vet. You can mail it, email it (estone@leenh.org) or fax it (603-659-7202) to us and then you can do it online or through the mail or drop box.
- New dogs cannot be done online. We need owner's birthday, phone number, address, dog's name, breed, and color and proof of rabies from the vet. If they are spayed or neutered we need proof. Altered dogs are \$6.50 and unaltered dogs are \$9. Puppies under 1 year are \$6.50. You can send us via mail or drop box this information with a check in the correct amount to the Town of Lee and we will mail your license.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Stay healthy and stay safe!

THE TRANSFER STATION IS OPEN BUT PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

The Swap Shop will remain closed until further notice.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO GET A DUMP STICKER IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE

Stickers are only good for two years!

If you do not already have one, stickers will be available at the Transfer Station or call Town Hall (659-5414) to get one. Proof of residency, such as a recent utility bill, lease or rental agreement, or recent tax bill, and your car registration will be required. If you have any questions regarding documentation please contact us at Town Hall or you may refer to the Solid Waste Ordinance, available [HERE](#). We are exploring the possibility of including a sticker with your car registration sometime in the near future.



CHANGES TO MIXED PAPER

Mixed paper should now be placed with Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) until further notice. We are doing this to protect our employees, as it takes a great deal of handling and sorting in order to make it recyclable. When we are no longer under the conditions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will switch to having residents separate office paper and magazines from other types of paper in order to maximize our recycling revenue.

PLEASE CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING

Both bays remain open as we have seen an improvement in the flow of traffic, but **please try to avoid peak traffic day on Saturday**. Everyone is doing a good job of maintaining a safe distance. In order for our employees and residents to maintain the recommended safe distance of 6', employees will not be stationed on the wall during this time but will be there to answer questions.

PLEASE KEEP CHILDREN IN YOUR VEHICLE

We understand that many of you have children at home with you as the schools and daycares have closed and you may not be able to leave them at home when you come to the Transfer Station but PLEASE have your child(ren) stay in your vehicle while you are disposing of trash and recyclables. This is for their safety! If they have to be out of the vehicle please keep them next to you at all times and do not let them run through the Transfer Station, roadways or parking areas.

There are several important issues you must be aware of regarding your household trash and recycling disposal if you or anyone in your household has been quarantined for COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19. Your trash and recycling must be handled and disposed of under different rules. Please consult Caren Rossi, Lee's Health Officer to discuss the new steps that must be taken. Email is crossi@leenh.org or phone at 659-6783. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone healthy!

Bulky items are accepted at the Transfer Station, HOWEVER, payment will be by check only – there will be a drop box available. Employees will not be able to assist with removing items from your vehicle but will be available to guide you, weigh items, and answer your questions.

RAIN BARRELS FOR SALE AT THE TRANSFER STATION - \$ 50 EACH

ONE ALLOWED PER HOUSEHOLD

There is only one left! First-come-first-served!

Eversource Reminds Customers to Remain Vigilant Against Scams

Eversource is taking a moment to remind everyone to protect themselves against scams which is especially important today because scammers are trying to take advantage of the uncertainty and nervousness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 outbreak has led to an increase in scam activity, with sophisticated scammers finding unique and intimidating ways to exploit people and steal their money. With this wave of scams related to the pandemic, here are a few common signs of a scam and some specific pandemic-related scams to look out for, including:

- **Threats of immediate power disconnection or demands for payment:** Eversource representatives never ask for instant payment, and the energy company is not disconnecting any customers for non-payment during this emergency period.
- **Callers asking for personal or account information or insisting on specific, unusual payment methods:** Eversource will never ask for personal information over the phone in this manner and does not accept payments via gift cards, pre-paid debit cards or other common tools used by scammers.
- **Requests for a deposit to exchange a utility meter:** Eversource has suspended all non-essential work, including routine meter changes, during the pandemic. Meters also do not suddenly expire, so be wary of calls claiming payment is necessary for a new meter to be installed because the current meter is about to expire.
- **Calls, emails or texts about government stimulus checks:** The IRS won't contact people with information about stimulus payments, or to ask for personal information like a Social Security number or bank account number.
- **Online offers for vaccinations and test kits:** There are no products proven to treat or prevent COVID-19 at this time and the only FDA-approved home test kit requires a doctor's order.

[CLICK HERE](#) for direct link to Eversource scam page. Eversource will never demand instant payment over the phone nor ask for personal information in an unsolicited call, text or email. For those who suspect they've been targeted by a scam, please immediately alert local law enforcement and call Eversource at (800) 662-7764. Always remember, don't panic and don't pay.

We are encouraging anyone who has questions or needs assistance to call us or utilize our online systems for access to assessing records, motor vehicle registration, etc.

Please see the Town website <https://Leenh.org> for more information and be sure to subscribe to "Town News" to get the latest notices emailed directly to your inbox.

Police/Fire/ Ambulance Emergencies	911
Police Business Number	659-5866
Fire Business Number	659-5411
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	659-2964
Planning & Zoning/Building Inspector	659-6783
Selectmen/Assessing/Finance Office	659-5414



NEXT SELECT BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM – Monday, June 22nd 6:00pm

Please check the website for Agendas and instructions on how to access Zoom meetings
Subject to change, please check the website meeting calendar

Meetings can be seen on **You Tube** at [CLICK HERE](#)

THE LEE BACKYARD FARMING INITIATIVE SERIES
scheduled for MAY 2020 have been postponed until further notice.

RECREATION COMMISSION PROGRAM UPDATE
Fishing Derby Postponed – TBD
Model Rocket Day and the Music in the Park Program – Stay Tuned

LEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE
THE MUSEUM'S 2020 OPENING DATE TBD
The Lee Historical Society's programs for 2020 will be rescheduled. Check here for updates.



[CLICK HERE](#) for Lee Farmers Market
Facebook Page
[CLICK HERE](#) for the Lee Farms and
Agricultural Brochure

During this time of social distancing and no Farmer's Markets –
Please remember to shop your local farms online, by delivery or pickup

WILKINSON FOOD PANTRY

Lee Church Congregational, 17 Mast Rd

Even though our building is closed, the food pantry is open to any household in Lee, Durham, Madbury, Newmarket, and Nottingham. Delivery is through a walk-up window service to minimize contact during this time. The pantry is open the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month from 6 - 7:00pm. If you have an emergency need for food outside of the normal hours, please call the Church office at 659-2861 or email at leechurchucc@comcast.net. All visits to the pantry are strictly confidential.

LEE TOWN COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

The Planning Board, Energy, and Sustainability Committees have openings to be filled. If you are interested contact the Town Secretary Denise Duval at 603-659-5414 or email dduval@leenh.org.
[CLICK HERE](#) for Application.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

Go to <https://www.leenh.org/calendar>

LIBRARY CALENDAR

Go to <https://www.leenh.org/node/14/events/month/2019-08>



Notice : Change in Services Due to Social Distancing Recommendation

Ready Rides is still operating during this time. We have adjusted our services to reflect the recommendations in place and to protect both our drivers and riders while still remaining available to those most vulnerable without taking them from their homes to incur possible contact with the virus.

We are still providing rides to patients who require life sustaining services such as dialysis, blood transfusions, injections etc. We will take each request as they come in and assess the depth of the need. We are suspending all rides to counseling, physical therapy and general health and dental checkups. We recommend you utilize family friends and neighbors who you already have regular contact with to help provide rides during this short suspension.

A service we are adding to our registered riders is pharmacy pickups and food pantry and grocery pickups. If you have placed an order with Walmart.com or Hannaford.com we have volunteers who will pickup these orders and bring them to your door with minimal contact.

If you are unable to order online and you are in desperate need of help with acquiring food or some necessity here are some resources. Currently if you live in the town of Durham call 868-2324 for assistance. If you live in the town of Newfields call 772-9010 and ask for Helping hands for assistance.

Barrington, Lee, Madbury, New Market, Northwood, Barrington, Nottingham and Strafford towns do not directly have things in place yet. Call us here at 244-8719 and we will do our best to find a way to get you the help you need.

What Ready Rides Offers During Normal Operation

Ready Rides provides transportation at no charge for the elderly & disabled residents living in: Barrington, Durham, Lee, Madury, Newfields, Newmarket, Northwood, Nottingham and Strafford. Rides are provided by volunteer drivers using their own vehicles. Accessible rides available.

To request information about registering as a rider or becoming a volunteer driver, please email us at info@readyrides.org or call (603) 244-8719. You can find an [Application](#) for riders and a [Volunteer Application](#) can be printed from this website and emailed or mailed to Ready Rides P.O. Box 272 Northwood, NH 03261. Be sure to also print out our service description.

For other transportation options available in the region, please visit ACT's [Community Transportation Directory](#).

Bird of the Week - House Wren: The Most Studied Bird Species in the World.

With its huge breeding range, bubbling song, and affinity for the type of habitat found in a typical backyard, the house wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, is one of the most recognized songbirds in the Americas. Preferring forest margins and open shrubby habitats, the house wren is a bird that doesn't mind claiming a property already occupied by humans, or other birds for that matter. Found raising families from across Canada down to the



very tip of South America and into the West Indies, this little avian has one of the largest breeding ranges of any New World bird species. Because of this huge range, their tolerance of humans, and readiness to nest in human-made cavities, house wrens is likely the most studied of all the world's species of birds, and consequently more is known about the biology of this species than any other bird on the planet.

Wrens are a diverse group, and most of them, 78 of the world's 88 species, are found in the Western Hemisphere. Of those 78 species, eight breed in North America. New Hampshire has four species of wrens: Carolina, House, Sedge (aka Marsh), and Winter. The genus name, *Troglodytes*, is Greek for "cave dweller" or "one who creeps into holes" and refers to these birds' preference for nesting in cavities. The species name *aedon*, also Greek, means "songstress". House wrens are wonderful singers, and unlike many bird species, the female as well as the male sings, hence "songstress". The male is the more accomplished singer, and his is a song that is impossible to describe phonetically. Naturalists through the centuries have, instead described a song that is a "loud", "bubbling", "exuberant", "ecstatic", "strenuous" medley of 12-14 different syllables that begins with chattered notes rapidly ascending and just as rapidly descending while never decreasing in volume. It is amazing the extent to which so small a bird can crank up the volume, a trait not unremarked upon by this land's original inhabitants. The Chippewa name for House wren is *O-du-na-mis-sug-ud-da-we-shi*, which translates to "making a big noise for its size". You'll find an excellent example of this species' ability to belt out a song in this youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LvRj3cbmBc>

Though lacking the brilliant colors of other bird species, the house wren is an attractive study in browns: pale brown head and neck; buffy, grey-brown throat and breast; pale rusty upper back, and more richly rufous lower back, wings and tail. Both the wings, flanks, tail, and undertail coverts are barred like a turkey or grouse tail. The tail is short and often held either cocked up or drooping down. The head is somewhat flattened with a long, slightly decurved beak. Many wren species have a pale stripe running from the base of the beak, above the eye towards the back of the head. This stripe, called the supercilium, is present on the house wren, but is so pale that it is barely noticeable.



Migrating from their wintering grounds in southern parts of the U.S. and northern and central Mexico, house wrens begin to appear in New Hampshire in late March, though the majority arrive through April and early May. Males generally arrive at least a week ahead of the females. As is the case with many bird species, the females seem to travel at a more leisurely rate on their journey north, giving males time to sort out territorial disputes and seek out likely nesting sites. As pair bonds last only, at best, a single season, winning a mate is a recurring task. When it comes to mate selection, the female does the choosing; to win her affections, a male needs to present her with at least one prime nesting site. Thus, within hours of arriving at his breeding grounds, the male house wren begins singing boisterously and seeks out likely nest sites within his territory. Wrens are cavity nesters, and any and all cavities may be included in his inventory: nesting boxes, tin cans, discarded shoes, pipes, chimneys, tree cavities, the pockets of clothing hung out to dry, rock crevices, holes in bankings, even nests built the previous year by robins and phoebes. My friend Sarah hung a converted tea kettle in her yard this year, which a pair of house wrens found perfectly acceptable.

Wrens are very intolerant of cavity nesters of other species. After establishing his territory, a male house wren will create a cordon sanitaire around his territory, destroying nests of bluebirds, nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, other wren species, and tree swallows. Even non-cavity nesters aren't safe; wrens have been observed attacking the nests of phoebes, yellow warblers, prothonary warblers, catbirds, cardinals, towhees and song sparrows. Wren attacks are not limited to simply destroying a nest: eggs are pierced, young are killed, and even adult females on the nest have fallen victim to the house wren's aggressive campaign to remove nesting species that might compete for both nesting sites and food resources.

Having scoped out potential cavities within his territory, the male house wren begins constructing nests in several of them by filling them with small sticks and twigs; wire, hairpins, paperclips, tacks, and nails may also be incorporated into his nest. As many as twelve cavities are prepared this way - some containing a few dozen sticks, others several hundred. Having several nesting cavities adds to



his attractiveness as it not only provides ample locations in which to raise a second brood, but ensures that there are back-up sites should a nest failure occur. He sings constantly during this period, with the tenor of his songs becoming particularly rapid whenever a female arrives in his territory. Taking her on a tour of his nesting sites, occasional high-pitched squeaks are added to his repertoire, the squeaking becoming very agitated whenever the female enters one of his stick-filled cavities - rather like the avian version of a particularly insistent salesrep's hard sell. An abrupt halt to the male's squeaking indicates that the female has found his nest site acceptable. Approval of the location doesn't necessarily mean approval of the nest, however. Very often, the stick pile so painstakingly assembled by the male is summarily dismantled as the female tosses out stick after stick. Having emptied the cavity, she often will then pick up the ejected twigs and put them all back in again, to her own specifications.

The number of sticks used in nest construction varies according to the size of the cavity and runs anywhere from 250 to 850 sticks. As seen in the photograph above, often several spider egg sacs and moth cocoons are inserted into the stick pile. It has long been thought that spiderlings, hatching from these egg sacs helped reduce mite infestations within the nest, but research has shown that this is not the case, and the reasons for including invertebrate cocoons and egg sacs remains unknown. The untidy-looking twig jumble forms the platform for the feather-lined inner cup made of rootlets, inner bark, hair, grass, and snakeskin. There may be several benefits to having the cup placed atop a mass of sticks, like a nest on stilts: any water leaking into the nesting cavity will pool beneath the stick pile; and the sheer volume of sticks blocking the nest entrance may serve to block cowbirds from laying eggs in the nest.

The female lays from four to eight (rarely as many as ten) white eggs mottled a rosy brown; the wide end of the egg is the most pigmented, and often has a dark ring around it, as seen in the eggs in the photograph above. With the onset of egg-laying, the female often patrols the territory, destroying any nests, nestlings, and brooding females of other species breeding in her territory that her mate may have missed on his earlier rampage. Once a full clutch of eggs has been laid, incubation begins - a task taken on solely by the female.



The eggs hatch in the order in which they were laid, with an incubation period ranging from 9-16 days. Newly hatched nestlings are naked and helpless and for the first four days the female spends half of every day brooding. During this period the male provides the bulk of the nestlings' food, passing prey to the female. Within four days of the hatching of the entire clutch, both parents provide food, at least for as long as they remain together. Once the nestlings no longer require brooding, it is not uncommon for one of the parents to desert the nest. A female may move to another male's territory, start a new nest, and even lay eggs, while continuing, for a time, to feed the nestlings of the first brood. A male may either advertise for a new mate at one of his "extra" nest sites, or seek out an entirely new territory. Nest abandonment is much more frequent among males than females.



House wren hunting invertebrates for nestlings. Photograph, Andrea LeBlanc

As might be expected by their aggressive behavior towards other nesting bird species, house wrens are dauntless when protecting their nests from predators. Crows, hawks, jays, cats, and foxes that venture into the house wren's territory trigger a rapid alarm call, that to my ear sounds like the

clicking sounds made by an ascending roller coaster - in this case a very tiny, very fast roller coaster. When one member of a mated pair begins to call the alarm, it is soon joined by its mate, and together the pair begins to chatter and dive at the perceived predator in an attempt to drive it away from the nest site or vulnerable fledglings. If harassment doesn't discourage the predator, the wrens will go into attack mode. Snakes, rats, squirrels, and humans have all felt the wrath of the house wren, with the predator's eyes the go-to site for stabbing with that long thin beak.

House wren nestlings are ready to fledge about two weeks after hatching. My family and I once witnessed nestlings fledging from a birdhouse hung in a tree outside our youngest daughter's window. Altered by the same sort of agitated squeaky chattering that male wrens use to encourage females to approve of a nesting cavity, we found both parents vocalizing while hovering near the nesting box - sometimes going in, sometimes hopping out onto the roof or onto a nearby limb. Eventually, one nestling emerged and fluttered onto a branch. Another jumped from the opening and made an awkward landing on a lower limb. Fifteen minutes later all six nestlings had fledged. An hour later their parents had shepherded them to a tangle of branches in a nearby shrubby area. From time to time in the following days we'd sometimes catch a glimpse of one of the fledglings, often when it was being fed. Parents tend to their fledglings for about two weeks before leaving them to start the next brood.

Before this year's wren began singing in our yard this week, my most recent glimpse of a wren was on a late afternoon last fall, when I looked out in time to see a migrant wren, who had been foraging in a rhododendron bush, be swooped on by a sharp-shinned hawk. The wren darted out, low to the ground, chattering its alarm call as the hawk pursued, only a few wren-lengths behind. Just as it seemed certain that the sharpie would be having wren for supper, the wren dove straight into a mass of dead oak leaves and pachysandra. All the chattering ceased, and the hawk dove, talons-first just where the wren had disappeared, but came up empty. For several minutes, the hawk tried to flush the wren by making short, pouncing hops into the pachysandra - much like a fox hunting mice in the snow. I'm sure the wren had managed to quickly creep its way to safety, as the sharp-shinned finally gave up the hunt and flew off. I waited another five minutes to see if the wren would reappear, but no joy.

Hearing the season's first house wren singing in my yard this week was, as always, both a happy reunion and a cause for anxiety. There are phoebes nesting under the eaves of the garage, and just the day before, I had watched a titmouse gathering wool from a nesting ball. In past years, we have watched phoebe and chickadee nests be destroyed by wrens, and it is always distressing. But the house wren, described by one nature writer as having the temperament of a terrier, is so audacious, and there is so much bird packed into that diminutive body, and its burbling song is so exultant that I can't be anything but glad to see it again in the yard, and am always sad to see them leave in the fall.



Ted Hughes' poem, *The Unknown Wren*, and the accompanying series of photographs taken by Andrea LeBlanc showing a wren's long twig/small hole problem-solving both capture the wren's indomitable nature, and are a good way to close.



The Unknown Wren

Hidden in Wren, sings only Wren, He sings
 World-proof Wren
 In thunderlight, at wrestling daybreak. Wren unalterable
 In the wind-buffed wood.

Wren is here, but nearly out of control -
 A blur of throbbings -
 Electrocutation by the god of wrens -
 A battle-frenzy, a transfiguration -

Wren is singing in the wet bush.
 His song sings him, every feather is a tongue
 He is a song-ball of tongues -
 The head squatted back, the pin-beak stretching to
 swallow the sky

And the wings quiver-lifting, as in
 death-rapture
 Every feather a wing beating,
 Wren is singing Wren - Wren of Wrens!
 While his feet knot to a twig.

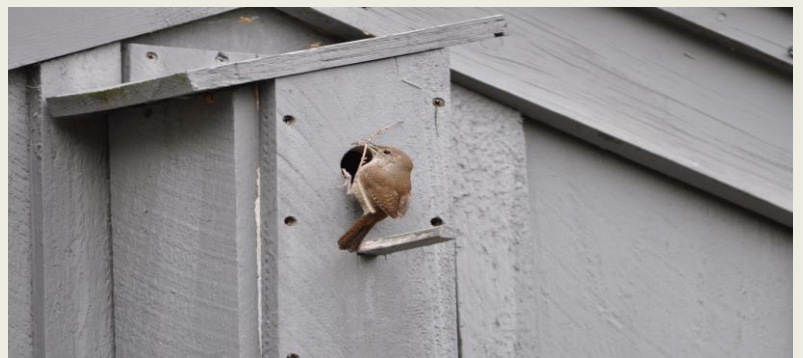
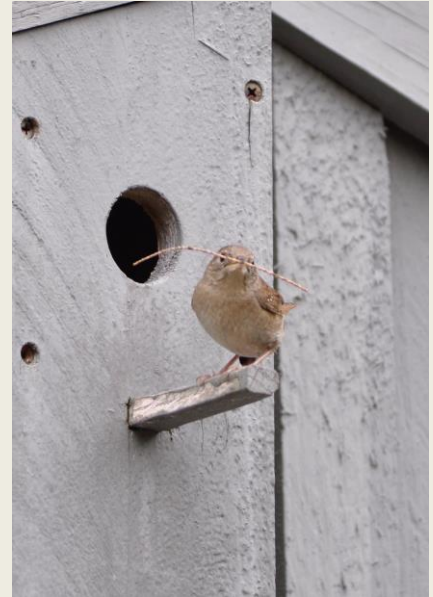
Imminent death only makes the wren
 more Wren-like
 As harder sunlight, and realler earth-
 light.

Wren reigns! Wren is in power!
 Under his upstart tail.

And when Wren sleeps even the star-drape heavens
 are a dream
 Earth is just a bowl of ideas.

But now the lifted sun and the drenched woods
 rejoice with trembling -

WREN OF WRENS!



LEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Things to See and Places to Go – June 12 – June 20, 2020

TERRESTRIAL

Anytime: Explore an Ecotone - Ecotones will be the topic of Sunday's Nature Notes, and we'll explore some of the ecotones found along the purple ribbon trail in the Town Forest. You can read all about these particular ecotones on the Lee Conservation Commission's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeeConservationCommission/>. If you don't have access to Facebook, here's a quick lowdown on what an ecotone is: An ecotone is a transition area between two different ecological communities. For example, a wetland is an ecotone - it's the transition area between an aquatic environment and a terrestrial environment. Though it is not always the case, generally ecotones are places of biological diversity and richness. An ecotone can be large or small, occur naturally or be human-generated. Sometimes the transition will be sharp - as where a forest meets a river; other times the transition is gradual, and species from each community as well as unique species will be found growing together. A walk along any of the trails in the Town Forest will take you to a number of these transition areas.

Anytime: Go on a Lady Slipper Hunt - The Town Forest, Maud Jones Memorial Forest, and the upland trail at Little River Park still have lady slippers in bloom - although the bloom time will soon be over. Take a walk and see how many you can find. Only 5% of lady slippers ever get pollinated - can you find one that's making a seed pod?

For Kids, Anytime: Dandelion Days - Though many people think dandelions get their name from the shaggy, mane-like flower head, the name is the corrupted version of the French name for this plant, *dent de lion*, which translates to "tooth of the lion" and refers to the serrated edges of the leaves, which really do resemble the lion of teeth in a lion's jaw which have toothed edges that look like teeth in a lion's jaw. Right now, most of the flowers are

setting seed, although there are still blooms to be found, but the dandelions will soon be putting forth new blossoms. It's still possible to find both flowers and fluffy seed heads (or blowdandies as my grandson calls them) Make the most of them with these child-friendly activities:

Make a Christmas Ornament: Use one or several seeds with their fluff parachutes still attached and put it/them into a clear plastic Christmas ball ornament. They're simple and ethereal-looking. Even a mason jar full of dandelion seed heads is lovely - and children, if they can resist blowing the seeds away, love putting together a jarful.

Use flower heads as paint brushes! Make Dandy Lions: Cut rough circles, draw lions' faces and place them on the flower heads to make your own little pride.

Make dandelion-dyed playdough: You may have to wait for the next flush of dandelion blooms to try this out, but rest assured, more dandelions are on the way. This video shows you how to make playdough using dandelion petals to dye it yellow:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37Wwk28sbOw>



Critter Cards: Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center has issued two new critter cards. Each card provides information and several activities that you and your child can do. Folks are encouraged to post their observations, drawings, paintings, photos, poems, etc. Last week's critter card featured garter snakes: <https://blogs.massaudubon.org/theflats/critter-card-garter-snakes-not-garden-snakes/>

Learn more here:

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/animals/reptiles/gartersnake.htm>

This video has some interesting information about garter snakes, too:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvC4BzGfLr0>

This week's critter card features cabbage white butterflies:

<https://www.facebook.com/MassAudubonJoppaFlats/photos/a.257414180946/10156889637850947/?type=3&theater>

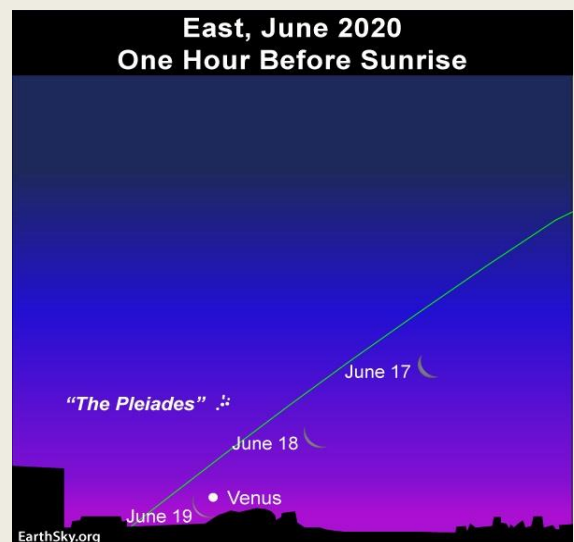
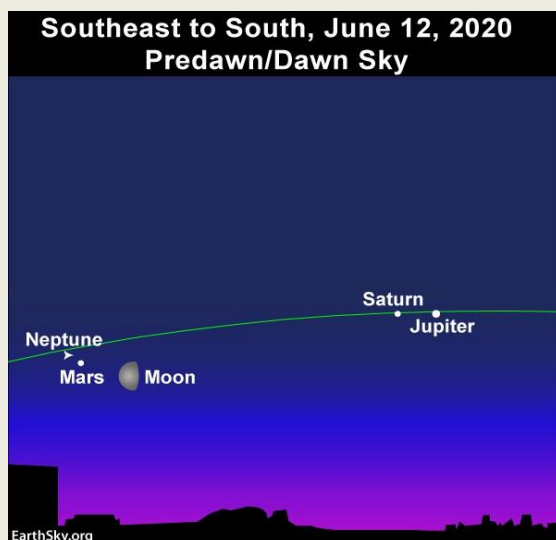
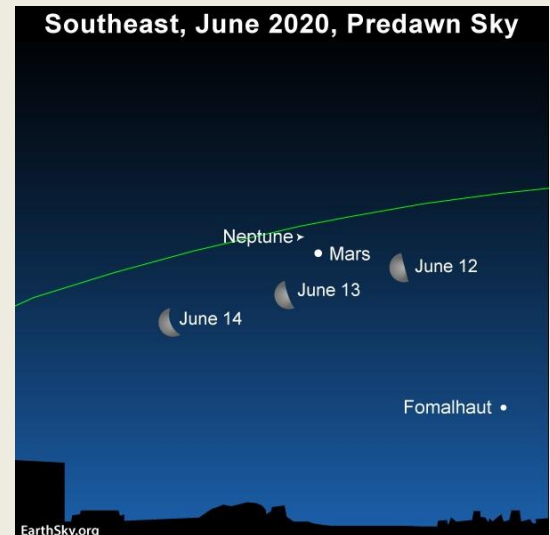
Though I hate it when they munch on my broccoli plants, cabbage white caterpillars are pretty cute when they first hatch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aApXkKKgJ4&feature=youtu.be>

Anytime: Go on an Insect Safari, keep a record of what you find: Insects are easy to find, why not keep a checklist of insects you come across in your own backyard. This link can help with identification: <http://www.bugfacts.net/insects.php>

CELESTIAL

June 12-30 - Pre-sunrise walk: From now until the solstice (Saturday, June 20), the sun rises earlier than it will all year. Birdsong provides lovely background music, and the cool pre-dawn air is sweet and refreshing. It won't be long now before the days begin to shorten, and the end of the dawn chorus is really just a few weeks away. Treat yourself to one of the loveliest parts of the summer - if you don't feel like a walk, just sit outside with your coffee and enjoy. If you do feel like a walk, and have a place with a clear view of the southeast, on **June 12-14** the Moon, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter on display - even Neptune is up there, though you'll need a telescope to see that distant planet. Due east, on **June 17-19**, you'll find Venus dancing with a very thin, waning crescent moon.

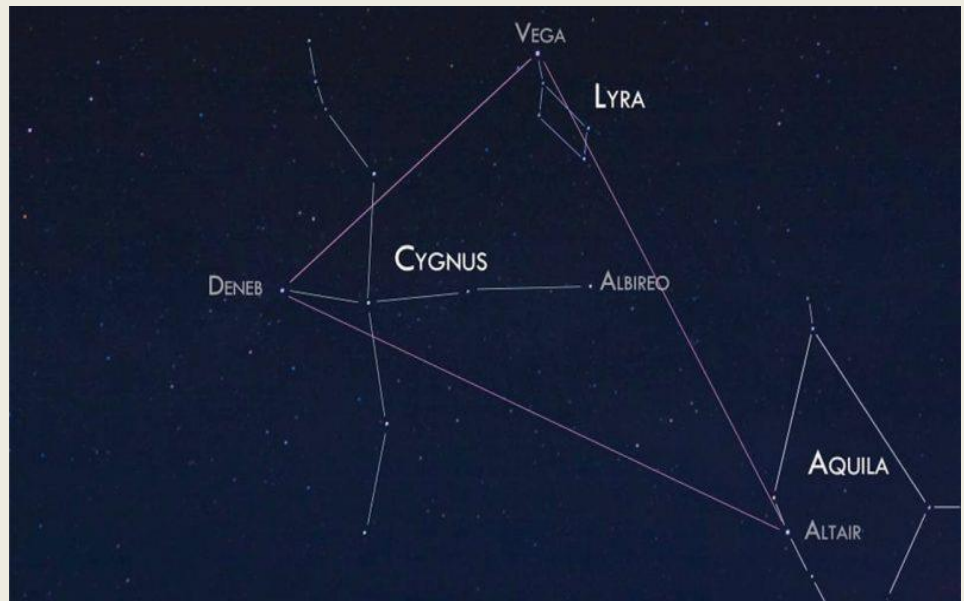


Throughout the summer, after dark - Summer Triangle: For us northerners, this huge asterism is a year-round presence in the night sky but in summer it really dominates the heavens, and it's fun to look up and find it on a warm, June evening.



The stars form the corners of the Summer Triangle are the alpha stars of three different constellations.

After nightfall, look for the brightest star shining above the eastern horizon - that's **Vega**, the alpha star of **Lyra (The Harp)**, and the brightest star in the Summer Triangle. To the lower left of Vega is another bright star, **Deneb**, the alpha star of **Cygnus (The Swan)**, and the dimmest star of the Summer Triangle.



Vega and Deneb form the endpoints of the shortest side of the Summer Triangle. The third star of this asterism, and the 2nd brightest is **Altair**, the brightest star in **Aquila (The Eagle)**. You'll find Altair to the lower right of both Vega and Deneb.

Should you find yourself in a place with a beautifully dark sky this summer, use the Summer Triangle and the constellation **Cassiopeia** (when I was a kid, we called this constellation "Lady W") to find the path of the Milky Way flowing through them.



June 20, 5:43 pm - Summer Solstice, summer begins - Our longest day and shortest night happens today. From this point on, the days will slowly grow shorter and the nights longer, although the days will remain longer than the nights until the Autumnal Equinox on September 20th.

Sunrise: 5:04 am - Because we'll be on birth-of-grandson-alert, this will be the first summer solstice sunrise that my husband and I have missed in some time. Most years we go to Odiorne to watch the Sun rise over the Atlantic. It's a beautiful thing to watch color creep into the world and the rim of the ocean grow molten with sunlight, and to think about the fact that we're riding on a planet spinning at 1000 miles per hour! If you get a chance, celebrate the first day of summer with a sunrise breakfast. If you get to the ocean early enough, say, between 4:00 and 4:15, to the east you'll see Venus, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter stretched out along the ecliptic. They'll wink out as the sun lights up the world, but they'll keep you company in the interim.

Don't forget these two online resources to help you and your family explore the night sky:

EarthSky (<https://earthsky.org/>). The EarthSky website provides several weeks' worth of nightly write-ups about what's going on in the night sky, along with a brief daily feature giving more in-depth information about a particular night-sky object. They've very generously given their permission to have their graphics used in this newsletter, and I encourage you and your children to visit their website.

Stellarium (<https://stellarium-web.org/>), has replaced StarAtlas, but remains an interactive map of the night sky. This new incarnation will set itself to your location. You can change the time and date to coincide with when you'll be star-gazing, and the map scrolls in all directions. If, for instance, in your location the best place for viewing the night sky happens to be facing west, just scroll the map to show the stars, planets and satellites that will appear in that part of the sky. Once you have the sky set for viewing time and direction, you can click on objects in the sky and an information box will appear giving the object's name plus information about brightness, type of object, etc. This is a fantastic website.



Scott M. Nemet
Fire Chief

LEE FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

20 George Bennett Road
Lee, New Hampshire 03861
(P): 603.659.5411 (F): 603.659.9611



Jeffery S. Liporto
Deputy Chief

TIMELY TOPICS FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

We are still in the midst of the COVID-19 and therefore still have to operate as such. In an effort to protect our personnel and the public the fire department is still operating under COVID-19 operations. We are still fully staffed and operating to protect our community but have had to put a hold on or adjust the way we provide some of our services. The fire department remains closed to all visitors but are working with town officials and the State for recommendations. All official business will continue to be conducted by phone or via email for now. Phone numbers and email addresses are provided on the [Fire Department's web page](#).

Burn permits are still required for all outside burning and all State burning regulations are still in effect. Burning regulations and permits can be obtained at [NH Fire Permit](#). Please check to see what the fire class for the day is prior to lighting any outside fire. Class 3 day or higher, all outside burning is not allowed. You can find out what fire class day it is by visiting the NH Forest and Lands website or look at the road side board at the Lee Public Safety Complex.

All station tours continue to be suspended as are all home visits for wood stove, burn permit and inspection purposes. Furnace installation inspections will be conducted on an emergency basis for emergency replacement only. All furnace replacement work shall be coordinated through the Fire Chief's office before any work is to be done.

Hopefully the virus emergency will be over soon and we can slowly return our operations to a normal level. All inquiries regarding the Town's response and current status for the virus should be made to the Town's Health Officer, Caren Rossi at the Planning Department.

With summer come thunder storms. Some storms can be severe and contain lightning, hail and wind. When lightning is in the area you should seek shelter indoors and away from windows. Do not shelter under trees or near tall objects. Be aware during high winds of trees, branches, power lines and debris being blown down. Occasionally these storms can cause downed power lines and power outages. We would like to remind everyone that we consider all downed lines as "energized" and should never be touched, moved or driven over. That includes cable and phone lines as they could be in contact with power lines at some point in the system. Call the fire department immediately and keep everyone away from the lines until the fire department arrives. With the power outages several people in our community use portable generators to power their homes. When using a portable generator follow all manufacturer's safety guidelines for your generator. They should be run at least twenty-five feet from the residence; exhaust should be pointed away from the residence and away from anything combustible. Never operate a generator in an enclosed space such as a garage or a shed. Generators emit carbon monoxide and can cause serious injury or death if run in-doors and carbon monoxide is allowed to accumulate.

As the water in rivers, ponds and lakes warm up and people begin swimming and boating, please take care and be safe. Be aware that we have had a colder than usual spring and night time temperatures can still drop into the low 40's. This has kept our water temperatures on the cold side. Please be aware that hypothermia is still possible even though air temperatures can be in the 80's and 90's if the water temperature is in the 50's or 60's. This is especially true for the very young and the older population. Use personal flotation devices while boating, water skiing, tubing etc.

Never swim alone even if you are a good swimmer. Follow all NH State Boating Regulations while boating on NH waterways.

Use caution while outdoor grilling. Keep grills at a safe distance from the residence or other structures while cooking. Have a hose or dry chemical extinguisher nearby to extinguish any grill fires before they get out of control. Make sure propane tanks are in date for hydrotesting and the gas lines are in good condition and not leaking. Dispose of burned charcoal in a safe manor, preferably in a metal container until cold throughout. Thank you and have a safe and happy summer.



**LEE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT SEEKING CALL
FIREFIGHTERS AND EMTS**
[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

BURN PERMIT

[CLICK HERE](#) for NH BURN PERMIT RULES AND REGULATIONS
[CLICK HERE](#) to get a Burn Permit Online

[BACKYARD BURNING QUICK GUIDE](#)
[DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS FIRE PERMIT BROCHURE](#)

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Fire Department Fee Schedule
Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Permitting Checklist and Reference Guide

WHEN SECONDS COUNT...

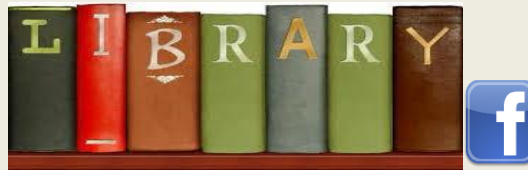
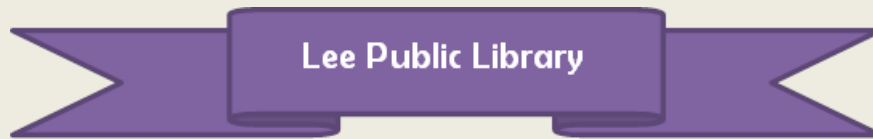


Can the Police, Fire, or Ambulance find your home when you need them for assistance with an emergency? Can they find it at night? Can they find it during a snowstorm?

Having your name and number on a mailbox is just not enough. Some mailboxes are clustered together. The numbers are small and the location may not mark the entrance to your driveway.

The Lee Firemen's Association, in a joint effort with the Lee Fire Department, has a program to install reflective house number signs at driveway entrances to assist all emergency responders in locating your home in a time of need. The cost for each sign with a post is \$35.00 and it will be installed by the Lee Firemen's Association.

Please take the time NOW to SAVE TIME in an EMERGENCY.
[CLICK HERE](#) for Reflective House Number Sign Request Form



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LEE LIBRARY?

Our ever-popular Curbside pickup continues with more and more folks taking advantage of this service. You can request books online on the library catalog, email us at leelibraryill@comcast.net or leelibrary@comcast.net or call and leave a message. Books can generally be picked up every day until 4pm, Tuesday until 7pm and Saturday from 10am – 2pm.



Just in case you missed it there is a FREE trial of Tumblebooks going on now until August 31st. This fantastic online children's and youth website offers hundreds of picture books and youth titles to read long with, listen and watch and read on your own. We would love to know what you think of this platform. It is something we could consider adding to our collection on a permanent basis.

[Click here to login here](#) or go to www.tumblebooklibrary.com

Login is: leelibrarynh

Password is: trial



GOVERNOR & EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, June 10, 2020

[CLICK HERE](#) for the 6/10/2020 Minutes

Next Governor & Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 10:00 a.m. at the State House in Concord, NH

McGregor EMS Volunteers Needed

McGregor EMS is currently seeking both Medical and Non-Medical Volunteers. Those interested may email membership@mcgregorems.org. To learn more about this great service [CLICK HERE](#)!

OYSTER RIVER SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Oyster River High School graduation will be Friday, June 12, 2020 at the high school.
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

The popular REACH summer enrichment program, a collaboration between Durham Parks & Recreation and the Oyster River Schools, is offering REACH-in-a-Box activity kits for kids and families to explore each week between June 29th - August 7th. The initial set of materials has sold out, and the team that organized the kits is working to find additional materials to be able to offer more REACH Boxes.

The grant-supported school meal program is continuing to deliver meals to children who have signed up across Oyster River through June 12th. For June 15th - June 30th, requested meals can be picked up at ORHS or Mast Way School. The Child Nutrition department is assessing community interest and possibilities for providing meals in July and August after the grant ends.

An informal survey regarding Remote Learning received 819 parent and guardian responses, and 621 responses from middle and high school students. Thank you to students and families for the huge amount of feedback. The school administration and school board are just beginning to review these data.

The 1:1 student laptop program started with the middle school in the 2018-2019 school year. For the 2019-2020 school year it expanded to cover grades 5-9. Starting in fall 2020, all ORHS and ORMS students will be included in the 1:1 program.

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL'S 1ST EVER VIRTUAL SENIOR ART SHOW

NHDOT BEGINS PLANNING FOR 5-DAY SHUTDOWN OF ROUTE 4 AT BUNKER CREEK

NHDOT is beginning to plan for a 5 day shutdown of Route 4 at Bunker Creek for the Bridge Replacement Project. The 5 day closure of Route 4 at Bunker Creek is expected mid/late July. The section of Route 4 on either side of the project will be open for local traffic only.

View the detour plans that will be put in place during this shutdown period [HERE](#). More information will follow as the planning continues. Work will be contingent on weather conditions and current COVID-19 constraints.

If you have questions, please contact the Design-Build Team,

Facebook - [NHDOTRte4Durham](#)

Twitter - [@NHDOTRte4Durham](#)

Email - <mailto:nhdotrte4durham@gmail.com>

For project history or background information you can also visit the [NHDOT's Webpage](#)

**Help UNH Extension map food-access resources and needs across New
Hampshire during COVID-19 – [CLICK HERE](#)**

If you are a Lee Resident in need of assistance with a Veteran's issue the Lee Memorial VFW Post 10676 may be able to help.

This post serves the communities of Lee, Durham, Madbury and Newmarket and has Service Officers who can help folks with just about any Veteran's related issue. At the State level they have a seat on the SVAC (State Veterans Advisory Committee) and are linked with tens of other non-profit Veterans organizations that provide a host of services. Please contact Andy Corrow, Commander, VFW Post 10676, at 603-397-9267 or vfwpost10676@yahoo.com for assistance.

ATTENTION!

To receive the E-CRIER via email every week go to www.leenh.org, click on the Subscribe button under the Town Resource Center section & follow the directions to subscribe.

If you do not have the internet please come to Town Hall for a printed copy or go to the Library to view it there. If you cannot leave your home please call Town Secretary Denise Duval at 659-5414 to have it mailed!